

August 2023 SAL—Boho Beads

Designed by Mikki Bonser, Sandia Mountains Chapter EGA

Boho beads can be used in many ways: scissor fob, pendant, attached to chains, journal markers, plant decorations, window hangings, pins, earrings, tree ornaments, etc. Your imagination can provide many ideas.

This project is a chance to use your imagination, dig into creativity, and borrow some ideas. There is no right or wrong way to make a Boho bead. Change these directions in any way you would like to. Watch some videos on the internet to get some different ideas, look for Boho beads on Etsy or Pinterest. This is a super project to do with children, but I suggest getting the fabric covered tubes ready in advance.

Materials:

Paper straw, or rolled paper to make a tube

Gather your old beads, bead caps, old costume jewelry, fake flowers, buttons, charms.

Bag of fabric scraps and leftover fancy threads, yarn, ribbons and lace, thin copper wire, and anything else you have stashed away.

White glue that dries clear and non-stick surface to allow for drying (parchment paper, wax paper, etc.)

Scissors

Wire clippers, needle nose pliers (beading pliers are good) 18 gauge wire or eye/head pins

1. Wrap a paper tube (straw or a rolled paper) with fabric of your choice. Use a white fabric glue (I use Mod Podge for fabric) so fabric is stuck to paper and allowed to dry. I suggest making this a day in advance - it is messy. I make a bunch of these in different sizes with a variety of fabric (cotton, silk, etc.) all at one time so I can create beads when I want to. Trim with scissors to desired size or to clean up edges.



2. Put wire, head pin, etc. through the paper bead with at least 1 inch or more wire sticking out at each end. If both ends are open, you can roll one end now or wait.



3. If you want you can add bead caps to one or both ends of the fabric covered tube. You can also use large beads to seal the ends.
4. Add beads of any variety to fill in the wire to the two ends. Leave enough wire to roll the ends to make a circle to attach a jump ring. Roll ends to keep the beads on the wire. This is the basic bead.
5. Decorate your fabric wrapped tube and beaded ends with fancy threads, yarn, lace, ribbon, trims, small beads on wire, etc. Glue in place as needed with a clear glue (for example, Tacky Glue) and allow glue to dry (use a hair dryer to speed up the process). Another method is to tie and knot threads in place. You can also sew larger ribbons or trims.
6. Add thin colored wire with charms, beads, buttons, etc to the bead by stringing objects on the wire and wrapping it around the bead. Secure wire ends by wrapping around the bead caps or inside wire ends. You could also wrap your bead with a chain or anything else you want.
7. Hang charms, jewelry pieces, chains, etc. using jump rings off the ends of the bead, in between the beads on the wires.
8. Put a Lobster Claw, jump rings, pins, or any other finding on one end of the bead.

Examples of finished Boho beads:

